

Authoritative and Relevant

(About the Bible Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker (*What is your name and your favorite music genre?*)

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

Southeast Christian Church - Core Belief

The Bible is the inspired word of God. It was written by men under supernatural guidance. They were inspired by God and therefore the Bible exist today without error. (*Ps 119:105-112, Prov 30:5-6*)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *The Bible is authoritative* -

Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (World English Bible) (*also see 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

What does it mean that the Scriptures are God-breathed?

The Bible is God's breath. Breath is the power of life. This is how a Christian breathes.

The Bible is God's words. It is His inspired revelation. **The Bible is God's inspired Word.** It reveals His truth, expresses His will, and is the verifiable authority for our faith and practice. At the foot of Scripture, we all stand as equals.

How are we all equal under the authority of Scripture?

There are several ways. One is that we can be Bereans. Acts 17:11 says, "...they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so" (WEB). Even the apostles expected their teaching to be examined and verified by the Scriptures.

How often do you read the Bible? (*This is one of the primary ways God speaks to you.*)

Hebrews 4:12 *The Bible is relevant* -

For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (WEB)

Is God transforming your heart? Are you continually responding to His conviction through repentance and obedience?

Application

Challenge yourself to read Scripture every day this week. You can use technology to listen to the Bible.

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"

Doctrine Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"

Obedience Proper lifestyle

Orthopathy asks: "Am I Spirit-led?"

Transformed Proper desires, alignment with God's will

Summary (*Remember: The Bible is authoritative and relevant to every Christian's life.*)

Review Question: *What does it mean that the Scriptures are God-breathed?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, we thank You that the Bible is Your inspired Word...*

Without Error - Reliable & Trustworthy (2-Page Study)

(About the Bible Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker (*What is your name and what type of movie do you like?*)

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

Southeast Christian Church – Core Belief

The Bible is the inspired word of God. It was written by men under supernatural guidance. They were inspired by God and therefore the Bible exist today without error.

Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Don't you add to his words, lest he reprove [*rebuke*] you, and you be found a liar. (WEB)

What does “without error” mean?

This concept is known as the doctrine of biblical inerrancy. In its classic form, it means that Scripture, in its original writings and rightly interpreted according to its literary style and purpose, does not affirm anything false in what God intended to communicate. (*Adapted from the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy 1978*) **“Without error” is not a challenge to be resolved, but a doctrine that expresses our conviction that Scripture is reliable and trustworthy in all that it affirms.**

Why can “without error” seem misleading?

Phrasing can be challenging because people may infer different meanings from the word “error.”

For example:

- A poetic statement is not judged the same way as a scientific textbook.
- A paraphrased quotation is not considered deceptive in ancient writing standards.
- Different Gospel accounts may emphasize different details without being contradictory.
- Translation differences are not the same thing as claiming the original message was false.

Christians who hold to inerrancy generally argue that:

- God is truthful.
- Scripture is inspired by God.
- Therefore, Scripture is trustworthy in what it teaches.

At the same time, many believers acknowledge that achieving confidence in Scripture is not simplistic.

Questions arise about:

- manuscript differences,
- translation choices,
- apparent tensions between passages,
- Gospel variations,
- historical and archaeological issues,
- and how modern scientific expectations interact with ancient literary genres.

Why this is important: believing the Bible is “without error” does not mean there are no difficult passages or interpretive challenges. For many Christians, confidence in Scripture develops through both faith and careful study rather than through the absence of complexity.

The Foundation for Believing the Bible Is Without Error Is Threefold

- **Inerrancy**- the Bible is without error in what it affirms.
- **Infallibility**- the Bible will not fail in accomplishing God's purpose and is trustworthy in faith and practice.
- **Authority of Scripture**- the Bible is the final rule for Christian belief and conduct.

Let's connect the doctrinal aspect with the Scripture above. Connect Inerrancy, Infallibility, and Authority with a core scripture 2 Tim 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105-112, and Proverbs 30:5-6.

Understanding the Bible

The Old Testament was written by prophets, poets, historians, and other inspired writers to reveal God's covenant, law, wisdom, and redemptive plan. The New Testament was written to proclaim the good news of Jesus, preserve His teachings, and record the apostolic teachings and growth of the early church.

Foundational Lesson of the Day

The Bible is our guide for living and one of the ways God communicates with us.

How does this foundation work?

Psalm 42:1-2 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? (ESV)

You need to read it. And you need to pray. When? How often should I read the word?

Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our **daily** bread" (ESV). This is from a prayer. Reading the Bible is one way God talks to us, and prayer is one way we can reply. (Also read- Ps 1:1-2)

Why?

Hebrew 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

What other way is there to know Jesus or the Apostle's teachings (for sure)?

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (NIV)

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (NIV)

Application

Pick a time to read the Bible. Find a reading plan. See how many days this week you can read the Bible. Use technology and listen to the Bible.

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart?

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"

Doctrine

Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"

Obedience

Proper lifestyle

Orthopathy asks: "Am I Spirit-led?"

Transformed

Proper desires, alignment with God's will

Orthodoxy: Believe the Truth: God's Word shapes what I believe.

Orthopraxy: Live the Truth: God's Word shapes how I live.

Orthopathy: Love the Truth: The Holy Spirit shapes my heart to desire what God desires.

Because Scripture is reliable and trustworthy, we receive God's Word as truth, submit our lives to its authority, and allow the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts according to God's will.

Summary *(We do not simply read the Bible to know more about God; we read it so that we may know Him, obey Him, and become more like Christ.)*

Review Question: *What does it mean that the Scriptures is without error? (It is a doctrine)*

Closing Prayer *Lord, we thank You that the Bible is Your trustworthy Word...*

Love the Word

(About the Bible Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker (*Do you like poetry and do you have a favorite poem?*)

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

Southeast Christian Church - Core Belief

The Bible is the inspired word of God. It was written by men under supernatural guidance. They were inspired by God and therefore the Bible exist today without error.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *The Bible is authoritative* – (*Foundations Bible Lesson 01*)

Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching ... (WEB)

Proverbs 30:5-6 *The Bible is reliable and trustworthy* – (*Foundations Bible Lesson 02*)

Every word of God is flawless ... Don't you add to his words, lest ... you be found a liar. (WEB)

Psalms 119:105-112 *Love the Word* – (*Foundations Bible Lesson 03*)

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path... I will obey your righteous ordinances... Revive me, ... I beg you, ... Yahweh, teach me your ordinances. My soul is continually in my hand, yet I won't forget your law... I have taken your testimonies as a heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. I have set my heart to perform your statutes forever, even to the end. (WEB)

How can one view the Bible as a heritage?

Heritage means traditions, beliefs, customs, history, or values that are passed down.

How can Scripture be the joy of our heart?

What do you think the joys of your heart are right now?

Here are some of the ways I have grown to love the Bible:

- I had a mentor who loved the Bible.
- I followed people on social media who love the Bible, like Wes Huff.
- I read David's Psalms and connected with his honesty and passion for God.
- I began reading the Bible for relationship with God, not just for information.
- I studied difficult passages instead of avoiding.
- I started sharing and teaching what I was learning to others.

Notice I didn't say **memorize Scripture or read it every day**. There is nothing wrong with either of those things, but **I wanted to KNOW God's Word**. Falling in love with the Bible will look different for different people because love is greater than a set of rules.

Application (*You tell me*) *Loving God's Word is valuable because it true, applicable to life, and transformative to the soul.*

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"

Doctrine Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"

Obedience Proper lifestyle

Orthopathy asks: "Am I Spirit-led?"

Transformed Proper desires, alignment with God's will

Summary *God's Word is Life, Joy, Love, Eternal, and your Heritage.*

Review Question: *What are you going to do to fall in love with God's Word?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, we love you and Your Word...*